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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 IO-13 OIC-04 OMB-01 H-03 NSC-10

SS-15 DRC-01 EURE-00 AECE-00 /158 W
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1477
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4208

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS AND MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP

REF STATE 174763

SUMMARY. RECENT US PROPOSALS ON MBFR NEGOTIATING STRATEGY HAVE STIMULATED ALLIED INTEREST IN DEGREE OF PUBLICITY WHICH ALLIES SHOULD GIVE TO THEIR MBFR POSITION, FOR EXAMPLE THROUGH MAKING PUBLIC THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS IN VIENNA. PER REFTEL, MISSION HAS RAISED IDEA OF EARLY OCTOBER MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP TO WORK ON OPEMING STATE-MENTS, BUT MOST ALLIES APPEAR TO FAVOR CONVENING GROUP CLOSER TO MID-OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 5 SPC DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATING STRATEGY, CANADIAN REP (ROY) REMARKED THAT , FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS IN SOME ALLIED COUNTRIES, COMMITTEE SHOULD BEGIN TO EXAMINE WAYS TO INFORMPUBLIC OPINION AND PARLIAMENTS OF ALLIED APPROACH TO MBFR. DUTCH REP (SIZOO) THOUGHT ALLIES SHOULD CONSIDER THEMES TO INCLUDE IN THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS IN VIENNA AS A MEANS FOR INFORMING PUBLIC
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OPINION. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) AGREED AND SAID THAT SPC SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER CONTENT OF OPENING STATEMENTS, IF THEY ARE TO BE IMPORTANT POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS. US REP AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A DISCUSSION OF

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS, BUT THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION SHOULD BE SCHEDULED SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH MAIN TASK OF COMPLETING WORK ON ALLIED POSITION. ON OPENING STATEMENTS, US REP SAID ALLIES MIGHT CONSIDER CIRCULATING THEIR PROPOSED STATEMENTS PRIOR TO AD HOC GROUP MEETING, SO THAT MEMBERS OF GROUP WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THEM IN ADVANCE. SPC CHAIRMAN ASKED DELEGATIONS TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS ON THESE POINTS.

2. DRAWING UPON REFTEL, US REP ASKED FOR REACTIONS TO HAVING AD HOC GROUP CONVENE IN EARLY OCTOBER. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID MAIN CONSIDERATION WAS TO ENSURE THAT WORK OF NAC/SPC HAS FINISHED BEFORE AD HOC GROUP MEETS. BONN ESTIMATED THAT EARLY TO MID-OCTOBER WOULD BE LIKELY TIME FOR AD HOC GROUP TO CONVENE.

3. ALTHOUGH NO OTHER ALLY RESPONDED AT SPC MEETING ON OUR PROPOSED EARLY OCTOBER DATE FOR AD HOC GROUP, WE INFORMALLY CANVASSED MOST DELEGATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER MEETING. THERE APPEARS TO BE STRONG GENERAL PREFERENCE FOR MID-OCTOBER STARTING DATE. ALL DELEGATIONS COMMENTED ON IMPORTANCE OF SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETING WORK IN NAC/SPC BEFORE AD HOC GROUP GETS UNDERWAY.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ALLIED INTEREST IN DISCUSSING PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF MBFR, EARLY WASHINGTON RESPONSE (STATE 177080) TO MISSION'S PROPOSALS WILL BE USEFUL HERE. RUMSFELD.

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